

CLAIMS:

1. A device with a human-machine interface, the device comprising an actuatable control organ for selectably controlling a function of the system, the device comprising means for detecting a user action representative for physically impending actuation of the control organ, the device having means for, upon said detecting, temporarily disclosing via output means, an indication of the selected function to the user.
2. A device according to Claim 1, characterized, in that said output means are general purpose output means.
3. A device according to Claim 2, characterized, in that the output means comprise means for disclosing the indication with an audible message.
4. A device according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized, in that it is a device pertaining to a vehicle.
5. A device according to Claim 4, characterized, in that the output means comprise a head up display, arranged for temporarily projecting the indication upon a windscreen.
6. A device according to Claim 4, characterized, in that the control organ is provided outside the normal line of sight from a drivers position.
7. A device according to any one of the Claims 1 to 6, characterized, in that the control organ is part of a coherently placed group of control organs for activating respective functions from a function group, the indication being indicative of said function group as a whole.
8. A device according to Claim 7, characterized, in that it comprises means for redefining the function group and the respective functions.
9. A device according to Claim 7 or 8, characterized, in that interface device comprises means for detecting a first and second stage of said user action, the interface device being arranged such that the first stage is representative of physically

impending entry into the second stage, the second stage being representative of physically impending actuation of the control organ, the interface device comprising means for, upon detecting the first stage, temporarily disclosing said indication, and upon detecting the second stage, disclosing, via the general purpose output means, a  
5 further indication which, within the group of control organs, is specific for the control organ.

10. A device according to any one of the Claims 1 to 9, characterized, in that it is arranged for effecting said disclosing only when, after detecting said user action, actuation of the control organ is not detected within a predetermined period of time.

10 11. A device according to any one of the Claims 1 to 10, characterized, in that it is arranged for disabling the disclosing when actuation of the control organ is detected.

12. A device according to any one of the Claims 1 to 11, characterized, in that it is arranged for disclosing a further indication of the function when actuation of  
15 the control organ is not detected the within a further predetermined period of time after detecting said user action.

13. A device according to any one of the Claims 1 to 12, characterized, in that the control organ is arranged for analog actuation of the function.

14. A device according to any one of the Claims 1 to 13, characterized, in  
20 that it comprises proximity sensing means for generating a user action detection signal, the proximity sensing means being arranged to be responsive to approach of a human finger.

15. A device according to Claim 3, 4 or 5 which is a car radio.

16. A device according to Claim 3, 4 or 5 which is a car telephone.

663040" 07483200

add B17  
Add  
C1